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Kernan Names Pfaff to Head Region Six; ISU Selected for Office Location

TERRE HAUTE — Today, Lt. Governor Joe Kernan continued to put the pieces in place for the Indiana Department of Commerce's new regional delivery system, naming Chris Pfaff director of Region Six and selecting Indiana State University as the new office's location.

Encompassing Clay, Fountain, Montgomery, Parke, Putnam, Sullivan, Vermillion and Vigo counties, the regional office will be located in ISU's Myers Technology Building and serve as a "one-stop" shop for all economic development activities.

"We are very excited with this combination," said Kernan, who serves as the director of the Indiana Department of Commerce. "Along with Chris's experience, the resources and the partnerships that will be leveraged by co-locating with Indiana State will create a lot of new opportunities for the entire region."

"This regional approach is a bold change to the way we attract and keep quality businesses," the lieutenant governor added. "It is arguably the biggest undertaking in the agency's history, and we're confident that it will pay off with more good jobs for Hoosiers."

Pfaff, a native and current resident of Terre Haute, presently serves as the deputy director of Commerce's Business Development Division and has also worked as an attraction and existing business field representative in southwest Indiana. Prior to joining Commerce, Pfaff worked in real estate and spent seven years in the U.S. Army, serving in South Korea and Germany. He graduated from Indiana University in Bloomington in 1990, and currently serves as a Captain in the Indiana Army National Guard.

"Chris knows this area – he's lived and worked here for many years. That, combined with his experience and knowledge about how Commerce, government and economic development work will ensure that Region Six will be a great success," added Kernan.

As regional director, Pfaff will act as Commerce's representative in the field and will be responsible for the overall management of the regional office and delivery of agency services. In addition, Pfaff will develop and maintain partnerships with regional business and community organizations and their leaders, collaborate with regional governments and local organizations on economic development projects, evaluate regional development needs and formulate a regional strategic plan, as well as educate the public on Commerce programs and services.

"I am excited about this new assignment and look forward to getting the office set up and getting to work," said Pfaff. "I am humbled and honored by this responsibility and thankful for the opportunity Lt. Governor Kernan and the Indiana Department of Commerce has given me "

Partnering with Indiana State University, the new office will be located in the Myers Technology Building at 650 Cherry St. and is expected to be operational by the end of October.

"Indiana has an outstanding network of higher education institutions – and they play a crucial role in our state's economic development activities, and that's certainly the case with Indiana State," said Kernan. "Putting a regional office here makes sense – the site is centrally located, it provides great access to telecommunications infrastructure and the university has shown great interest in partnering with us. We are extremely thankful to ISU for their generosity and look forward to a long relationship with them."

Lt. Governor Joe Kernan announced plans to modernize the Department of Commerce in July after more than a year and a half of research. Last week Kernan named Chuck Martindale head of regional operations, and yesterday Kernan named Doris Sims and Charles Sparks as directors of regions ten and four, respectively.

For more information on the Indiana of Commerce, the new regional offices or its programs contact Jeff Harris, media relations director, at 317.232.2464 or visit the Web site at www.indianacommerce.com

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